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# The Steeple Bell

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Information for the St. Thomas Episcopal Church Family, October, 2009

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## From the Vicar . . .

Dear Family of God at St. Thomas,

By the time you (the members of St. Thomas) read this article, I will have had my knee surgery and already be doing the work of physical therapy in order to recover fully. I am looking forward to the time that I can once again go for walks and be more active in general, without concern about overdoing and thus straining my knee further.

This is a busy time of year in the church, so it would be easy for me or anyone in his or her daily life suddenly faced with the need to have surgery or take time out to do something one hadn't planned for, to fret about things needing to be done or the inconvenience of the timing etc. etc. However, I choose to see my surgery and recovery as a hurdle along life's way that I will navigate by God's grace, help and the prayers of the saints of God .

Recently God sent me a timely message via the internet. **Yes! God does use e-mail!** Through this e-mail I received a personal "**note from God**" that He wanted to carry me through this time of pre-surgery, surgery and post surgery. In other words, I just need to place myself in His hands.

Now, the well known "Footsteps in the Sand" image and prayer is about a child of God who asks God why wasn't God there when he was going through many troubles and needed Him so desperately. God gave His child a picture of Himself walking along the sand and said where the man saw only one set of footprints was where God had carried him. **God was there in a "hands on" way all along!**

A beautiful song is very present with me at this time, too. It keeps coming to my remembrance, so I know the words of the song are for me, personally, to receive. **(God sings, too!)** The song is called "**One day at a time.**" One verse goes like this (I hope I have the words right, but if I don't this is what I'm hearing in my inner spirit):

*One day at a time, sweet Jesus, that's all I'm asking from You.  
Please give me the strength to do every day what I have to do.  
Yesterday's gone, sweet Jesus, and tomorrow may never be mine,  
So teach me, today, show me the way **one day at a time.***

The message that I'm receiving and for all of us to receive in the ups and downs of life, in challenging times, disappointing times, strenuous times, inconvenient times, in joy and in sorrow, or at any time is that **God is present in all of the times of our life.** So "**look up, believe and be comforted,**" even if you or I only see or understand dimly in this life. God **is** in charge, and we are charged to be at peace and to rest in Him and let Him carry us when we need carrying. Finally, I hope to be back among you soon. Meantime, stick close to God, because he will never let you down. In the peace of the Savior,

(Rev) Shirley +

## The Steeple Bell

A monthly Publication  
of  
**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
2441 Nichols Drive  
Trenton, MI 48183-2486  
734-676-3122  
Web Site:  
stthomastrenton.org  
E-mail: stthomas2007@att.net

The Rev. Shirley McWhorter  
Vicar

Nan Morrish  
Secretary

Barbara Conroy  
Music Director

Gerald Eory  
Custodian

### Bishop's Committee

<u>Term expires 2010</u>	<u>Term expires 2011</u>
Peter Boylan	Wayne Boylan (Warden)
Janet Coutts	Diane Puchalski
Jim Hussey	Ron Puchalski
Ralph Vidusic	Kathy Zook

Term expires 2012  
Scott Abernathy  
Fran Felty (Secretary)  
Paul Gauthier (Warden)  
Cindy Jenzen

Treasurer: Rob Sherry

### Worship Services:

Sunday, 8:00 & 10:00am Holy Eucharist  
Wednesday, 10:30am Holy Eucharist

### Christian Education

Children & Youth 10:00am Sundays  
Adults Seasonally as Announced

### Office Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00am - 1:00pm

The Rt. Rev. Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr.,  
Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan  
& Rector of St. Thomas Church

## Welcome Returning Member

Janice Gorham-Mustafa  
2365 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Wyandotte, MI 48192  
(586)405-1940

**Please make the following changes in your membership directory:**

Mike and Melinda Fischer  
25792 Bridgewood Lane 11-79  
Flat Rock, MI 48134  
(phone the same)

Helenor Ross  
8800 Macomb, apt. 143  
Grosse Ile, MI 48138  
(phone the same)

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## Surgery Update

Rev. Shirley had a full knee replacement on Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. The surgery went well, and she was discharged Wednesday evening. She will be having in home therapy initially, followed by out patient therapy. Rev. Shirley said she has gratefully felt everyone's prayers.

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## All Saints' Remembrance

Please turn in to the church office the names of any deceased you would like to have included in prayers during our All Saints' observance on Sunday, November 1st.



## Bishop's Committee Summary

At the September 13th meeting the treasurer's report showed these **monthly figures for August:** Income \$14,209, expenses \$14,595 for a net balance of \$386 in the red. The year-to-date balance as of September 9, 2009 is \$ 3,347 in the red. Pledges are being paid at 67% of the total pledged for the year. Right on track.

The flat roof over the library has been repaired. No more buckets in the hallway when it rains! The next project is repair to the front air lock roof.

Eighteen St. Thomas members (including five youth) worked at the Trenton Food Pantry during the months of June and August. We packed and gave out bags of food to 138 Trenton families in June and 151 families in August. On August 27<sup>th</sup> fifty-nine families received assistance! This is a new record for the food pantry.

Church members gathered on the front lawn of the church on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, for a Blessing of the Animals and Holy Communion service. Seventy-nine persons and 10 animals attended. The service was followed by an ice cream social.

Emily Krupa will serve as the youth representative on the Bishop's Committee beginning in November and will be the liaison to the Young Adult Ministry Team.

Olan Mills will be taking pictures at St. Thomas for our new church directory on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Rev. McWhorter is having knee surgery on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Canon Bob Neily will conduct the services while Rev. Shirley is recovering.

### Acknowledgements and thank yous

1. Jan Mans for having the carpet on the stairs to the thrift shop and the drapes in the guild hall cleaned. And Tim and Cindy Jenzen for hanging the drapes.

2. Ralph & Mandy Vidusic, Pam Pearce and the rest of the social committee for putting on the ice cream social.

3. Jan Mans for organizing the church picnic in Elizabeth Park in August.

4. Ron Puchalski, Jim Zook, Gary McWhorter and Chuck Kromer for tending to the lawn cutting in August.

5. Ron Puchalski for painting new stripes in the parking lot.

6. The 18 people who worked at the Food Pantry in June and August.

7. Judy Dabanian and the volunteers who organized the craft projects for the children during the 10:00 service this summer.

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The Children's Worship program formally began September 20, 2009. We will be using a series of lessons called "The One Room Schoolhouse" through Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. We then will be using the Godly Play materials. New Godly Play books have been purchased, and the lessons are enriched with more material.

The Christmas Pageant practice will be Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, and the Pageant itself will be December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Children's Worship teachers this year are Jan Mans, Nancy Sutherland, Rebecca Sherry, and Jean Pendell, as well as myself. We could use one or two more teachers. If you are interested please contact me. Judith Dabanian.



- 01 Ryan Stanley
- 10 Judith Mawditt
- 10 Ralph Vidusic
- 10 Amanda Vidusic
- 14 Karen Pockyarath
- 17 Joan Cowie
- 23 James Cook
- 26 Ian Anderson
- 27 Danny Thivierge
- 28 Janet Espley
- 29 Emily Krupa

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## Kroger Really Does Care

During the month of September we received a quarterly check for \$444.30 from the Kroger Community Rewards program! We presently have 33 individuals or families participating. Keep swiping those Kroger cards, or sign up for the program if you have not already done so. Information on how to enroll is available in the church vestibule.

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## Requested Recipe

From Jan Kromer

### Cashew Nut Salad

- 1 head lettuce
- 1 C. Monterey Jack cheese
- 1 C. cashew nuts

#### Poppy Seed Dressing:

- 1 C. salad oil
- 1 tsp. prepared mustard
- $\frac{3}{4}$  C. sugar
- 1 tsp. grated onion
- $\frac{1}{3}$  C. white vinegar
- 1 tsp. poppy seeds

Beat Poppy Seed Dressing ingredients together and chill. Serve over lettuce, nuts and cheese.

## Pictorial Directory

On Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00 to 9:20pm, and Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, from 9:30am to 5:10pm, Olan Mills will be at St. Thomas to take photographs for our new Pictorial Directory. There will be opportunities to sign up after services on the four Sundays in October. Each individual or family who participates will be given a free 8 x 10 photo and directory and will be entered into a drawing for one of eight \$25.00 discount coupons which can be used toward purchase of pictures. Please note that additional photos can be purchased if desired, but there is no obligation to buy anything.

Our new directory will not be a success unless **you** are included. Please schedule your appointment date as soon as possible. If you absolutely cannot be available on the photography dates, please contact the office, and we will try to make alternate plans for you.

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## Worship Survey

The following survey will be in the bulletins during the first two weeks in October, or you can fill out the copy below and mail it to the church office.

Your input is asked regarding the times for **Christmas Eve** services. Please indicate your preference for an early or later service and the time which would be most convenient for you and your family, or you can suggest an alternate time.

I would prefer to attend an early evening service at:

- 5:00pm
- 7:30pm
- Other (indicate time)\_\_\_\_\_

I would prefer to attend a later evening service at:

- 10:00 or 10:30pm
- Other (indicate time)\_\_\_\_\_

Please also indicate the time of day you would prefer to attend a **Good Friday** service:

- Noon or early afternoon
- Evening

Your name:\_\_\_\_\_

## Soup's On!

The weather's getting chilly. It must be time for soup! The Outreach Ministry Team is sponsoring another wonderful Soup Sunday on October 4<sup>th</sup> after the late service. We will offer several types of delicious homemade soups plus bread, crackers, cookies and beverages. We will also have peanut butter & jelly for those who don't care for soup.

The prices remain the same: All you care to eat at \$3.00 for adults, \$2.00 for children 5-12, children under 5 – free, with a family maximum of \$10.00. Come hungry!

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### Women of St. Thomas

The women's group has planned a number of activities for this fall. We invite all ladies of the church, and their friends, to join in the fun.

The Ladies' Handcrafts group will begin meeting on Monday **October 5<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00. Yes, the "Tuesday" group is now meeting on Mondays. This fall we are considering a number of projects including items for the Homemade Christmas Cookies and More Sale in December. Come to the first meeting and help decide which projects we will do. We will meet at 1:00 at the church every Monday between Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. That's 10 meetings. Come as often as you can – and bring a friend or neighbor. Children are welcome.

We are also making plans for:

A Ladies' Night Out Dinner at a local restaurant in October or November

The Fourteenth Annual Advent by Candlelight Evening on December 10<sup>th</sup>, and

The Homemade Christmas Cookies and More Sale on December 13<sup>th</sup>

It's going to be a fun fall! If you have any suggestions for activities or questions about the women's group, please call me. Fran Felty

("Borrowed" from *On Angels's Wings*  
St. Michael's, Lincoln Park)

### Bones of the Church

The "body" of a church has four kinds of bones:

1. The WISHbones are those folks who spend all their time wishing someone else would do all the work.
2. The JAWbones are those who do all the talking and very little else.
3. The KNUCKLEbones are those who knock everything anyone else tries to do.
4. The BACKbones are those who get under the load and get the work done.

What kind of bone are you?

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### What do you see?

Take a look at this line of type:

### GODISNOWHERE

Did you read it as "God is nowhere"? Or are you an optimist who read it as "God is now here"?

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# The Steeple Bell

St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
2441 Nichols Drive at Andover  
Trenton Michigan 48183-2486  
[734] 676-3122

TO:



## October

### Coming Up:

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Thursday, 10/1                     | Life Line Screening                                   |
| Sunday, 10/4                       | Soup Sunday   |
| Friday, 10/23 &<br>Saturday, 10/24 | Diocesan Convention<br>Lansing                        |
| Friday, 10/30 &<br>Saturday, 10/31 | Olan Mills taking pictures<br>for Pictorial Directory |